## REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 and 19 to 22 were pending; claims 9 to 12 were withdrawn. Applicant has amended claims 6 and 8, and canceled claims 1 to 5, 9 to 12, and 19 to 22. Claims 6 to 8 remain pending.

§ 101 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for claiming non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has canceled claims 19 and 20, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6 to 8, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,166 ("Ratnakar et al."). Applicant has canceled claims 1, 19, and 20, thereby rendering their rejections moot. Applicant has amended claim 6 to further clarify the claimed invention and distinguish over Ratnakar et al.

Amended claim 6 recites a method for indexing minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream on an as needed basis. The claimed method requires receiving a request for an $i^{th}$ MCU in the bit stream and determining if the $i^{th}$ MCU precedes a last indexed MCU with its bit offset stored in an index. If the $i^{th}$ MCU does not precede the last indexed MCU in the bit stream, the claimed method requires entropy decoding of the MCUs up to and including the $i^{th}$ MCU in the bit stream, but without going beyond the $i^{th}$ MCU, to determine their bit offsets and indexing the bit offsets in an index. In the contrary, Ratnakar et al. discloses a full indexing approach that entropy decodes the entire JPEG bit stream to extract the bit offsets of the MCUs all at once.

The method of claim 6 requires fewer resources and provides faster performance over the method of Ratnakar et al. For example, if the user wants to crop the first 256 rows from a 3072x2048 resolution JPEG file, the method of claim 6 only needs to index (256*2048)/8/8 MCUs while the method of Ratnakar et al. will index (3072*2048)/8/8 MCUs even if only the first 256 rows is needed. The method of Ratnakar et al. will perform Huffman decoding for the entire image but the method of claim 6 will perform Huffman decoding for only a smart part of the image (the first 256 row). The method of claim 6 thus needs much less memory and achieve faster performance than the method of Ratnakar et al.

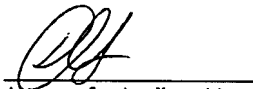
For the above reasons, amended claim 6 is patentable over Ratnakar et al.

. Claims 7 and 8 depend from amended claim 6 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 6.

Summary

Applicant has amended claims 6 and 8, and canceled claims 1 to 5, 9 to 12, and 19 to 22. Claims 6 to 8 remain pending. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the claim rejections and allow claims 6 to 8. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 x206.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.



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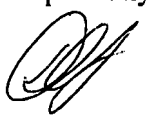
**Date**

Respectfully submitted,



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